

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (original) A hazardous waste collection container, particularly for medical waste, comprising: a lower container part (1), an upper container part (2) connected to said lower container part (1) and having a top end with a discard opening (20) formed therein, a discard opening lid (30) mounted on said upper container part (2) so as to be pivotable between an open position, in which access to said discard opening (20) is provided and a closed position, in which said discard opening lid (30) covers said discard opening (20), said discard opening lid (30) comprising a retaining element (34) and a closure member (31) releasably engaged within said retaining element (34), said discard opening (20) including side walls with a seat structure (22) and locking means (33) firmly engaging and irreversibly locking said closure member (31) in said discard opening (20) when said closure member (31) is pushed out of said retaining element (34) into said discard opening (20) below.

2. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein said seat structure ~~22~~ (22) has a U-shaped circumferential configuration and is formed along the inner circumference of said discard opening (20) and said closure member (31) has a collar (32) which extends into said U-shaped seat structure (22) in said irreversibly locked position thereof.

3. (original) A container according to claim 2, wherein said collar (32) provided with locking tongues (33) which are releasably engaged by said retaining element (34) for retaining said closure member (31) in said retaining element (34).

4. (original) A container according to claim 3, wherein said seat structure (22) is provided with a locking lip (24) and said locking tongues (33) are engaged by said locking lip (24) in said discard opening when said closure element (31) is pushed out of said retaining element (34) into the irreversibly closed position in said discard opening (30).

5. (currently amended) A container according to claim 1, wherein said discard opening (20) is disposed in a flat ~~pan-~~  
~~like~~ recess (10) in the top of said upper container part (2), said recess (10) having a depth corresponding to the height of said retaining element (34).

6. (original) A container according to claim 5, wherein said recess (10) and, in accordance therewith, said discard opening (20) have an elliptical shape.

7. (original) A container according to claim 6, wherein said elliptical recess (10) is so arranged that, in the area of the smaller diameter of the elliptical recess (10), it is disposed close to a top edge of said upper container part (2).

8. (original) A container according to claim 7, wherein, with a square upper container part (2), the area of the smaller diameter of the elliptical recess (10) is disposed adjacent a top front edge of said upper container part.

9. (original) A container according to claim 8, wherein, in the area of the smaller diameter of the elliptical recess (10) opposite said front edge, said recess (10) includes a rectangular extension (11) having a bottom (13) from which two spaced support shackles (39) extend essentially up to the top

of said upper container part for pivotally supporting said discard opening lid (30).

10. (original) A container according to claim 5, wherein said recess (10) has side walls (12), which are inclined inwardly from the top of the upper container part (2) downward.

11. (original) A container according to claim 4, wherein said locking tongues (33) are resilient and are disposed in circumferentially spaced relationship around said closure collar (32) and extend, outwardly inclined, upwardly from the lower end of said closure collar (32).

12. (original) A container according to claim 11, wherein said retaining element (34) has downwardly inwardly inclined side walls so that its lower cross-section is smaller than the upper cross-section thereof in adaptation to the configuration presented by said locking tongues (33).

13. (original) A container according to claim 12, wherein said retaining element (34) is provided at its upper edge with an engagement lip (36) projecting inwardly into said discard opening (30) for engaging said locking tongues (33) when said closure member (31) is disposed in said retaining element (34).

14. (original) A container according to claim 1, wherein said seat structure (22) includes a seal for sealingly engaging said closure member (31) in its final locked position in said discard opening (30).

15. (original) A container according to claim 9, wherein, in accordance with the distance between said spaced support shackles (39), two support arms (38) extend sidewardly from

said retaining element (34), each support arm comprising spaced parallel webs joined at their free ends by a shaft and said shackles (39) have openings receiving said shaft for pivotally supporting said retaining element (34).

16. (original) A container according to claim 5, wherein said upper container part (2) is provided with a locking member (41) for releasably holding said discard opening lid (30) in said recess (10) for covering said discard opening (20).

17. (original) A container according to claim 16, wherein said locking member (41) is disposed in a locking recess (40) extending outwardly from said flat recess receiving said discard opening lid (30) and said locking member (41) includes at its inner side a locking notch (42) adapted to receive a lock shackle (43) projecting from said retaining element (34) for releasably locking said discard opening lid (30) covering said discard opening (20) in said recess (10).

18. (original) A container according to claim 16, wherein said discard opening lid is spring-biased in the pivotal opening direction.

19. (original) A container according to claim 1, wherein a bridge segment (27) extends across part of said discard opening (20) and is provided with means for engaging, and pulling out, injection needles from devices in which they are mounted.